

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 30, 1973

**National Organization Grants
Seminary Extension Membership**

OMAHA, Neb. (BP)--The National University Extension Association, an organization of institutions of higher learning dedicated to improving their continuing education programs, has voted into membership the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

The director of the SBC Seminary Extension Department, Raymond M. Rigdon of Nashville, hailed the acceptance as "a major milestone in the history of SBC Seminary Extension work."

Membership in the association "will help us to strengthen significantly the continuing education opportunities we are making available to all pastors, regardless of the limitations or the extent of their previous training, and to other church and denominational workers through the Southern Baptist Convention," Rigdon said.

Another primary advantage of membership in the organization is that it will provide a valid basis for colleges and universities for appraising requests for transfer of credits for Seminary Extension Department study to their institutions, Rigdon added.

Though membership in the association does not mean accreditation, it does have many of the requirements of accreditation, including an in-depth self study, he added.

The department's work is already accredited by the National Home Study Council, an organization which operates primarily in the correspondence study field.

Requirements for membership in the National University Extension Association includes full accreditation with one or more accreditation associations.

Another requirement calls for a lengthy report, based on an exhaustive self-study, which gives evidence of high standards in its curriculum, program and services.

Under membership procedures, a special investigation committee, after an extensive on-location study of the operation, must recommend membership to the association's board of directors, which must in turn recommend the institution for membership to the full association.

There are more than 125 member institutions, most of them major state universities, affiliated with the National University Extension Association. Only one other Southern Baptist institution, Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., is a member of the association.

Rigdon said the association is probably the most important organization, nationally, on the "cutting edge" of extension education in America.

The Seminary Extension Department, with offices in Nashville, offers correspondence study and courses through nearly 200 extension centers located throughout the nation aimed at both Baptist laymen and pastors on three different academic levels. The department operates a Home Study Institute in addition to the 200 extension centers.

Evangelists Conference
Slates Four Addresses

PORTLAND (BP)--The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, slated to meet here on Wednesday afternoon, June 13, during the Southern Baptist Convention, will feature four major messages, including an address by the convention president.

Closing speaker for the evangelists' conference, which meets on the afternoon when there is no scheduled session of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be Owen Cooper, industrialist from Yazoo City, Miss., and president of the SBC.

The evangelists' conference will begin at 12:30 p.m. and conclude at 4:00p.m., with sessions in the Civic Auditorium.

Opening speaker will be Adrian Rogers, who last year became pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis after several years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Merritt Island, Fla.

Other speakers will be Bill Spencer, evangelist from Broken Arrow, Okla., and David Stockwell, evangelist from Fort Worth, and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Black Student Elected
Mercer Student President

4/30/73

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Students at Mercer University, a Baptist school here, have elected for the first time a black student as president of the school's Student Government Association.

Kenneth Bryant, a senior from Palatka, Fla., campaigned for the presidency on a platform of social concerns for the Mercer and Macon communities, and won, by a 19-vote margin.

Bryant said, however, that the students "didn't look at this election as a black guy running against a white one. They just looked at us as two people, and they voted for the one they thought was best."

Bryant won over the current Student Government Association vice-president, Brian Carney, in a runoff election.

The new president is chairman of Black Students Alliance at Mercer which sponsors day care and tutorial programs, and is a member of the board of directors of the Macon Council on Human Relations.

About 40 per cent of the 1,700 students at Mercer voted in the election. The Baptist school here has for several years been around seven per cent black.

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